



Progress (Mid-Term) Report to the U.S. Department of Transportation – PHMSA
Ms. Mahua, Agreement Administrator
Mr. Sam Hall, Agreement Officer's Representative

Technical Assistance Grant Number - DTPH56-13-G-PHPT03

March 30, 2014

The Department of Transportation, Pipeline Safety and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA) awarded a grant to COGENT to: *Provide the NASFM/PHMSA Pipeline Emergencies Training to trainers and first responders in the tri-counties of Bradford, Sullivan, & Wyoming Counties target area of Pennsylvania's Northern Tier Marcellus Shale Region. An ambitious goal to train 75% of first responders in the target area. This is to be accomplished through five weekend training sessions coordinating through each county's EMS department. In addition, the goal to obtain regional support to extend the program to Susquehanna & Tioga Counties, the remaining two counties of our target area.*

1. A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period.

We began coordinating with the three target counties late fall. It was during this period that the Susquehanna & Tioga Counties expressed interest in their first responders also having the training. We investigated partnering with industry in order to see how our grant dollars could be stretched to include a potential of doubling the outreach of training to include 750 more first responders. We were successful in receiving industry support. Industry is providing financial assistance for nine out of ten training luncheons. Industry offered to assist further should it be necessary.

Ten training dates were coordinated with the five counties, two dates per county and the NAFSM trainer was contracted. The press release was issued and outreach materials were provided to the individual counties for distribution through their networks.

We discovered through our outreach to the gathering line operators, that the ones who were not providing training to first responders where they operated, they were not interested in being involved with our project either as a lunch sponsor, or to send their employees to attend. We offered this idea as a way to improve operator provided training in the future.

2. Where the output of the project can be quantified, a computation of the cost per unit of output.

As of March 30th, ten trainings, two per county have been scheduled in Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga & Wyoming Counties. We added a training outreach page to our website and created a Facebook page primarily to reach out to the Region's first responders. Presently, there is no quantification of the project.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania still has placed no emphasis on training first responders in our region for pipeline emergencies. Therefore, everyone who receives this training, this is the only opportunity they would have to receive it and therefore, our region will be better prepared with informed and confident first responders than otherwise would be the case.

3. The reasons for slippage if established objectives were not met.

Problems have been encountered. Approaching the first weekend of training April 5-6, upon the last week two weeks of March enrollment was very light, extremely lower than we had forecasted. Having provided numerous emails and reminders to both Tioga & Wyoming County EMS Departments, it was not readily understood what was occurring. Outreach by Susquehanna County EMS was moving forward and response was greater for April 27th training than was received for April 5-6 at the previously mentioned counties.

The last two weeks of March it became apparent that Wyoming County EMS did not forward any of the materials to the first responders. For some unknown reason, there was a total lack of cooperation. When we met with the Wyoming County Commissioners, we had to wait almost two months for an appointment and then the EMS Director was not available and the Chairman did not attend either. Then the half-hour we requested, was abruptly changed to five minutes. We were not able to adequately communicate the program with the county at that meeting. Repeated attempts were made to reach the EMS Director and finally, through a phone conversation the program was explained and they stated they would share the information through their network. Subsequently, we did receive a phone call from the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners who was unhappy they were not aware of the program even though materials were left for them at the previous meeting. The program was explained to them and it appeared there was support from the Chairman at the conclusion of the conversation. We issued a press release late February, but the weekly paper that covers the county failed to publish the press release. We contacted the parent company, and then the press release was published, but it was too late to make a difference with the training date.

Realizing this was not going well, we did a mailing to all the county's fire companies. We also reached out through emails to the fire companies, ambulance squads and township governments. We contacted the state and local police departments as we were able and engaged every fire company we discovered on Facebook. We also attended one fire company meeting to encourage first responders to attend. Once we did this outreach, we began receiving enrollments. We did not expect this training to be well attended.

Because of the experience in Wyoming County, we determined to follow through in a similar manner with all the counties. Repeated requests to the Tioga County EMS Director for the mailing addresses for the county's stations remained unanswered after several requests. We finally created our own mailing list and went to work. Still, we were not having a good response. Thus, we were not expecting a very good turnout for the Tioga County training, we were hoping for last minute registrations.

We've learned from these unexpected situations. While Susquehanna County clearly is doing very good outreach, first responders were the first to register for the April 27th date. When we contacted Susquehanna County EMS for a mailing list, they replied they had done a mailing two weeks prior. We are expecting different results in Susquehanna County.

Sullivan County has been slow on the enrollment due to the fact they have a new EMS Director and he has not coordinated training before and wasn't sure what to do. We are working closely with them and they have sent emails to the stations. We've sent a mailing and have been doing the same outreach we've learned is now necessary. Sullivan County's weekly paper has been publishing our press release weekly.

Bradford County's training is not until May. The County does have the training noted on their calendar and we are planning a mailing and all other outreach as well.

Due to the problems encountered, a better outreach plan was developed. We are anticipating that the number of first responders given to us last year when we did

our grant application may not be reliable, and that the numbers may be less. It does not appear that in general some counties have good records on such information.

Please advise if you have any questions or if you need anything more for this progress report. Our final report will have more details about our training program as the actual training begins the April 5-6 and continues through April, May & September.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily E. Krafjack". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the "Best Regards," text.

Emily E. Krafjack